

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. RONALD REAGAN

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in South Carolina yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the bills H.R. 1089 and H.R. 3591.

President and Mrs. Reagan stand as shining examples to all Americans. I have often told audiences around the nation that we should have a man as president whom everyday Americans can point to as a role model to their children, a man whom they can respect, and a man they can trust. Ronald Reagan was such a man. He played a key role in my own decision to get involved in politics. Ronald Reagan is a man that people trust, a man that made America feel good about itself again.

As First Lady, Nancy Reagan carried herself with dignity and grace and used her time in the nation's spotlight to focus America's attention on the negative impacts of drug abuse, especially among young people. Mrs. Reagan has been a brilliant example for all Americans who have loved ones that require long term care, and has continued her work to combat youth drug abuse.

I can think of no two people more deserving of our recognition of their dedication to public service, than Nancy and Ronald Reagan. That is why I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 3591, and deeply regret that I was not able to support it with my vote yesterday.

HONORING OUR 40TH PRESIDENT
RONALD REAGAN AND MRS.
NANCY REAGAN

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical emergency I missed Recorded Votes No. 96 and No. 97 on April 3, 2000. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on both bills.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, this House considered legislation to honor two of the finest people to ever grace our country with their service. These two individuals urged us to win one for the Gipper, and guaranteed us it was morning in America. They taught us to Just Say No. They brought economic security back to our country, and moral values back to our nation. And most importantly they slew the beast known as Soviet communism. Of course I refer to President and Mrs. Reagan.

President Ronald Reagan is more than just a great American President. He is more than a leader who gave the working family a much

needed tax break, while encouraging productive investment to create jobs. He is more than a leader who strengthened our national defense. He is more than a leader who made these United States of America the sole superpower on the face of this Earth. He is a man that took away the infliction of malaise, which filled us as a nation with fears and doubts, and replaced it with a sense of hope and a sense of pride. Ronald Reagan is more than just a great President, President Ronald Reagan is an American Icon.

Mr. President and Mrs. Reagan I say Thank You. Thank you for your patriotism, thank you for your service, and thank you for your leadership. Mr. President and Mrs. Reagan it is my honor to support awarding you the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN HONOR OF THE OHIO JUNIOR
CLASSICAL LEAGUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ohio Junior Classical League for their continued celebration of the classics.

Formed in 1936, the National Junior Classical League (NJCL) is an organization of junior and senior high school students sponsored by the American Classical League. Composed of local and state/provincial chapters across the United States, Canada, and Australia, it is the largest Classical organization in the world today with over 55,000 members. Its purpose is to encourage an interest in and an appreciation of the language, literature and culture of ancient Greece and Rome and to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of Classical antiquity.

The NJCL holds a yearly convention in late July or early August. This year's convention will be held in Tallahassee, Florida, at the Florida State University. Similarly, the OJCL holds yearly conventions in Columbus, Ohio, in March. These conventions give a chance for students to compete and have fun with others who share their love for Latin. This year, during the weekend of March 10–12, 2000, over 900 Latin students and their teachers from across Ohio gathered in Columbus for the 50th OJCL State Convention. In addition to the competitions normally found on the schedule, the OJCL incorporated events to recognize fifty years of OJCL history.

In a period of diminishing participation in classical languages, the OJCL has been able to keep the classical enthusiasm alive with 55 local Latin clubs across the state. The OJCL has been able to keep young people interested in and appreciative for the language, literature, history, and culture of classical civilizations.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in honoring OJCL on their continued success.

35 SIKHS MURDERED IN INDIAN-
CONTROLLED KASHMIR

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of Monday, March 20, 2000, in a Sikh village located in the Indian-controlled side of Kashmir, several armed men roused Sikh villagers from their homes, lined up 35 of the men, and shot them to death. According to Associated Press (AP) reports, witnesses said the gunmen entered the village about 7 p.m., dressed in what appeared to be Indian army uniforms. They knocked on doors, forced the adult men to come out with their identity cards, lined them up in two groups and opened fire.

There has been much speculation about who is responsible for these gruesome murders. India claimed that Kashmiri militants were responsible for the massacre, and accused neighboring Pakistan of supporting the rebels. On the eve of President Clinton's visit to India, and considering Pakistan's current situation, it is difficult for me to believe that Pakistan would take this sort of a risk to their relationship with the United States.

That is why I am inserting into the RECORD a press release from Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. Dr. Aulakh, who has conducted a peaceful, democratic, nonviolent effort for a free and sovereign Khalistan, suggests that this, as the AP reported, may be the handiwork of the Indian government.

Mr. Speaker, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984; 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947; more than 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988; and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and Dalits. With a track record like that, I certainly believe that Dr. Aulakh's assertion merits a closer look.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT MURDERS 35 SIKHS

RAW AGENTS POSE AS KASHMIRI MILITANTS—
CONTINUES PATTERN OF PITTING MINORITIES
AGAINST EACH OTHER

WASHINGTON, DC, March 21—Thirty-five (35) Sikhs were murdered in Kashmir today by agents of the Indian government's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) posing as Kashmiri militants. There are over 700,000 Indian troops stationed in Kashmir, yet the murderers disappeared without detection. The murders were carried out during President Clinton's visit to South Asia.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, strongly condemned the murders. "These murders are evil, cowardly, and stupid acts designed to pit one community against another and prop up India's image for the President's visit," Dr. Aulakh said. "Whoever carried out these brutal acts, they are cowards," he said. "They may escape justice in this world, but they will face the justice of God. That will be worse for them."

"Sikhs and Kashmiris are allies in the struggle for freedom," said Dr. Aulakh.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

"What motive would Kashmiri freedom fighters have to kill Sikhs? This would be especially stupid when President Clinton is visiting. The freedom movements in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and throughout India need the support of the United States," he said. Khalistan is the Sikh homeland declared independent on October 7, 1987.

The murders continue a pattern of divide-and-rule terrorism by the Indian government. The government has recently tried to blame Sikhs for the murder of Christian missionary Graham Staines by arresting a Hindu man who uses the alias Dara Singh. Every Sikh male uses Singh in his name. Yet it was reported at the time of the Staines murder that he and his two sons were burned to death in their jeep by a mob chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. That mob was affiliated with the Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. In November 1994, the *Hitavada* reported that the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan, and in Kashmir. The book "Soft Target", written by two respected Canadian journalists, proved that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 people, to blame the incident on the Sikhs and provide an excuse for more repression and bloodshed. This is a well-established modus operandi of RAW.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations. The figures were published in "The Politics of Genocide" by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. The government has also killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police to murder Sikhs. Amnesty International recently reported that there are thousands of political prisoners, including prisoners to conscience, held in Indian jails without charge or trial. Some Sikh political prisoners have been in this illegal detention since 1984.

"This shows that there is no freedom for minorities in India," Dr. Aulakh said. "For minorities, India is no democracy," he said. "As U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher said, for the minorities 'India might as well be Nazi Germany.'"

"I urge President Clinton and Ambassador Richard Celeste to confront India on these brutal murders, as well as the recent harassment of journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan, getting Sikh and other political prisoners released, and the ongoing, massive, and brutal human-rights violations against Sikhs and other minorities," Dr. Aulakh said. "If the United States wants to see an end to these incidents, it should support self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the other nations seeking their freedom from India," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only a free Khalistan will end India's corruption, tyranny and genocide against the Sikh Nation," he said. "India is on the verge of disintegration. The Sikh leadership should immediately begin a 'Shantmai Morcha' to liberate our homeland, Khalistan."

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 2000]
NEAR CLINTON'S INDIA VISIT, VIOLENCE
FLARES IN KASHMIR

(By Pamela Constable)

SRINAGAR, India March 20.—While their government and most of their countrymen are hoping President Clinton will play down the sensitive topic of Kashmir during his

visit to India this week, people in this depressed, wintry city at the political heart of the disputed, violence-torn region are praying for just the opposite.

Today, in the worst single attack on civilians in a decade of guerrilla war, unidentified gunmen massacred 35 Sikh men in the Kashmiri village of Chati Singhpura Mattan, wire services reported. Security officials had feared that armed Pakistan-based insurgents, who have stepped up attacks here in recent months, might stage a dramatic attack during Clinton's stay in India.

Clinton condemned the attack in Kashmir. "On behalf of the president and all Americans let me express our outrage at the attack on a village in Kashmir last night," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters in New Delhi.

Many Kashmiris believe that only a world leader of Clinton's stature can put pressure on Indian officials to start meaningful negotiations with Pakistan over the mountainous, predominantly Muslim border region where separatist sentiment is strong, guerrilla violence is rapidly rising and Indian troops patrol with an iron fist.

"If Mr. Clinton can make a difference in places like Chechnya and Bosnia, why not in Kashmir?" said Shah Khan, 22, who sells shirts and pants in the teeming alleys of Lal Chowk bazaar. "We are happy because at least his visit will bring some attention to our problems, but we wish he would come to Kashmir and see for himself. Then we would all tell him one thing; we want freedom."

But this message is highly unlikely to reach Clinton's ears or the Indian capital this week. On Sunday, about 50 Kashmiri independence activists were arrested and jailed as they tried to board buses that would take them to New Delhi for a protest rally near Parliament, where Clinton is scheduled to speak Wednesday.

In a brief interview in jail today, the group's leader, Shabir Shah, 44, said they had been tear-gassed and dragged into police vans as they prepared to leave. He said the group, which seeks Kashmiri independence from India, had planned to stage a peaceful rally and a symbolic hunger strike.

"President Clinton says he wants to help ease tensions in the region, and he will be talking with India and Pakistan, but we wanted to tell him that it is futile until we Kashmiris are taken into account," Shah said.

Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan, has been the major source of friction between the two neighbors and nuclear powers for a generation. Since the early 1990s, the Indian-occupied part has been the site of a violent conflict between anti-India insurgent groups and Indian security forces, which has cost tens of thousands of lives. Last summer, a 10-week border conflict in the Kargil mountains left hundreds dead.

Today's attack on the Sikhs seemed to represent an especially gruesome escalation of violence and attempt at ethnic cleansing in the Kashmir Valley, where Muslims dominate the population and the insurgency has become increasingly directed by Islamic groups based in Pakistan. The victims were separated from their families by unidentified gunmen who entered their village after dark and shot them.

In the past, Kashmiri insurgent groups have concentrated on military targets and have denounced terrorism against civilians. But in recent weeks, there have been a half-dozen attacks on Hindu truck drivers and on scattered villages of Kashmiri Pandits, or local Hindus, many of whom were violently driven from the region years ago. Now Sikhs, who have lived peaceably in northern Kashmir for years, appear to have become their latest target.

Clinton, who has called Kashmir "the most dangerous place in the world," has repeatedly expressed interest in helping to defuse the tensions and to nudge India and Pakistan back toward dialogue. But Indian authorities are adamantly opposed to any foreign intervention in the dispute, and have declared they will not resume talks with Pakistan until it stops arming and training Kashmiri insurgents.

In interviews over the weekend, some Srinagar residents said they were skeptical that Clinton's talks with Indian leaders could make any difference. They said the United States was too concerned with bigger issues, such as trade and nuclear non-proliferation, to let Kashmir become an irritant to improving relations.

"Clinton is coming as a guest, so he won't want to embarrass his hosts. What he says in America about Kashmir may not be what he says here," said Masood Ahmed, 30, another shopkeeper in Lal Chowk. "He already knows that thousands of people have been killed in Kashmir, but he is only coming to see the Taj Mahal."

[From the New York Times, Mar. 21, 2000]

35 MASSACRED IN SIKH TOWN IN KASHMIR

SRINAGAR, India, Tuesday, March 21 (AP).—Gunmen rounded up and killed 35 Sikh villagers in the disputed state of Kashmir, the police said today as President Clinton began a visit to India.

The massacre on Monday night was the first major attack on the small Sikh community in Kashmir since separatist Muslims started their insurgency 10 years ago. Sikhs are considered a neutral minority, but Indian officials had warned earlier of violence by Muslim militants hoping to draw attention to Kashmir during Mr. Clinton's visit.

Both India and Pakistan claim the Himalayan territory and have fought two wars over it.

The gunmen were not immediately identified and no group claimed responsibility for the attack, the police said.

Mr. Clinton arrived in New Delhi, 400 miles to the south, on Monday evening after a visit to Bangladesh. He has said that reducing tensions between India and Pakistan is one of his objectives of the trip.

Many Kashmiris were hoping that the president's visit would lead to a breakthrough in the long deadlock on the region's future.

Mr. Clinton's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, expressed outrage over the killings, saying in a statement that "our most profound sympathies go out to the victims of this brutal massacre."

The attackers entered the village of Chati Singhpura Mattan after dark and forced the residents from their homes, police officials said.

The assailants separated the men from the women, announcing that they were conducting a "crackdown," Indian security forces operate similarly when searching a neighborhood for militants that they suspect may be hiding there. The gunmen then opened fire on the men, killing 35 of them. One man was critically wounded.

Sikhs have lived mostly undisturbed in the Kashmir Valley, the only area in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority. Many run the trucking companies that supply the valley.

In the last six months, attacks by the militants have focused on army bases and patrols rather than random terrorism, and have shown a higher degree of training and expertise, senior army officers have said. They said about 3,500 militants were in Kashmir, and many of them had infiltrated the ceasefire line from Pakistan, with the help of the Pakistan army. Pakistan denies giving active aid to the militants.

The area of the Sikh village is about 42 miles from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and is controlled by armed Kashmiri groups that abandoned separatism and were recruited by the Indian army as a counterinsurgency auxiliary force.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2000 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball team on winning the 2000 NCAA National Championship in outstanding fashion over the Tennessee Lady Volunteers. This is the second National Championship for the Huskies in five years. As a graduate of the University of Connecticut, I join the UConn community as well as residents throughout eastern Connecticut and across our State in celebrating an incredible team effort and season.

Anyone who watched the game on Sunday night cannot dispute the fact that the Huskies are far and away the best team in women's basketball. From the opening tip through the final buzzer, the Huskies dominated on offense and defense on route to a 71 to 52 victory—the second largest margin of victory ever in a women's NCAA championship game. The Huskies demonstrated once again why the program was the number one team in the nation for every single week of the 1999–2000 season. Sue Bird directed an incredible offensive attack with a combination of assists, scoring and hustle. All-American Shea Ralph, who earned Tournament MVP honors, demonstrated the tenacity on offense and defense which has become her trademark. She led the team with 15 points and finished the year as the team's leading scorer averaging more than 14 points per game.

All-American Svetlana Abrosimova, MVP of the East Regional final, sparked the Huskies' with an early 3-point bucket on her way to another spectacular game on both sides of the ball. She scored 14 points and finished the season averaging more than 13 points per game. Kelly Schumacher, who stepped into the starting lineup mid-season, was smothering on defense setting a tournament record with 9 blocked shots. Swin Cash added offensive punch scoring 9 points while finishing the season averaging nearly 10 points per game.

As UConn has demonstrated throughout the season, winning the championship was truly a team effort. Every player made contributions throughout the game and over the course of the season enabling the Huskies to compile a 36 and 1 record and, ultimately, to win another National Championship. Asjha Jones, who provided depth off the bench all season, scored 12 points—more than all but one Tennessee player. Tamika Williams, Kennitra Johnson, Paige Sauer, Stacy Hansmeyer, Marci Czel, Keirsten Walters and Christine Rigby each played important minutes in the championship game and throughout the course of the season.

I also want to offer congratulations to Head Coach Gino Auriemma. Coach Auriemma has led the Huskies to two National Championships, including an undefeated season in 1994–1995. He is widely viewed as one of the foremost coaches in collegiate basketball. He and his entire coaching staff—Chris Daily, Tonya Cardoza and Jamelle Elliott—deserve much credit for the Huskies' success this season and throughout the 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is safe to say that the UConn Women's Basketball program was one of the two most dominant in the nation in the 1990s. Over the past decade, UConn won 313 games, 2 national titles, 8 Big East championships, including 7 straight, and played in the NCAA tournament every year. Only Tennessee won more games. UConn's performance has helped to elevate the national profile of women's basketball—and women's sports in general—to an unprecedented level. The team can take pride in this achievement as much as any other.

I also believe that it goes without saying that the Huskies' fans are among the most dedicated in the nation. The Huskies have been number one in the nation over the past six years in home attendance attracting more than 983,000 fans. Fans from across the state and throughout New England travel to every game at Gampel Pavilion and the Hartford Civic Center. The enthusiasm of the Huskies' fans was evident this weekend as more than 20,000 people attended the women's championship game in Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join every resident of Connecticut and fans across the nation in congratulating the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball team on winning the 2000 NCAA National Championship.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SGT. DELBERT L. ZIMMERMAN, JR.

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a fine gentleman, Sgt. Delbert L. Zimmerman, Jr. of Saginaw, MI, on the occasion of his retirement from the Michigan Department of State Police.

For 25 years Sergeant Zimmerman has served in Michigan as an officer with the State Police. He began his distinguished career as a civilian radio operator with the Michigan Department of State Police in 1974. On March 23, 1975, he was appointed to the 89th Recruit School as an enlisted member and graduated on July 17, 1975, whereupon he was assigned to a post in Jackson, MI.

Sergeant Zimmerman was transferred to my home town of Bay City, MI, on March 25, 1984, where he initially worked as a K–9 handler. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and assigned to a post in Flint, MI, on June 28, 1988. Two years later he again returned to Bay City. On August 2, 1992, he transferred to the Traffic Services Section and was assigned to the Third District Headquarters. Last week, on March 31, Sergeant Zimmerman retired from his post.

During his distinguished career, Sergeant Zimmerman has received many awards. Time dictates that I only mention a few: the 1988

Bay City Post Trooper of the Year award, the 1991 Bay City Post Trooper of the Year award, and the 1984 National Police Association Professional Excellence award.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say that Sergeant Zimmerman has always worked hard to protect the men, women, and children, who rely daily on the courage and commitment of our State troopers. Likewise, I think it is also fair to state that Sergeant Zimmerman has provided steadfast guidance and leadership to his fellow officers. Such individuals are rare, and deserve our eternal thanks for dedicating their lives to protecting ours.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join me in wishing the best in retirement for this dedicated public servant. It is my hope that Sergeant Zimmerman enjoys his newfound time with his family, his wife Kriste, and daughters Kayna, Jennifer and Molly. Again, on behalf of the many families in our neighborhoods that Sergeant Zimmerman has devoted his life to protecting and serving, I extend sincere and heartfelt words of thanks and appreciation, and offer my congratulations for his distinguished career.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF JOSEPH J. EGLIN, JR., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION, UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to Joseph (Jay) Eglin, Jr. on his retirement from the U.S. General Accounting Office [GAO]. Jay has served the Congress and the public in a long and distinguished career at the GAO that has spanned more than 37 years.

Jay began his career in the Los Angeles Regional Office and he is ending his career in Washington where he serves as the assistant director for Higher Education Issues in the Health, Education and Human Services Division. He has played a vital role throughout the years in identifying problem areas within the student loan program and providing solutions to long standing problems. Most importantly, some of those solutions have saved the Federal taxpayers millions of dollars that would have otherwise been lost to fraud and abuse within the program.

My committee has come to rely on Jay for solutions to numerous issues that arise in the context of administering a very large and complicated student loan program. His suggestions and recommendations for improvements have been invaluable over the years and especially during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in 1998. He was instrumental in helping the committee quantify the rapid increases in tuition and fees at colleges and universities across the country. This year, his involvement in the market mechanisms study required by the Higher Education Act has helped to move forward so that a timely report will be delivered to Congress. It is no easy task given the various interests represented by the study group and the complex issues involved.

I want to wish Jay the very best in his retirement on behalf of our committee members who have come to admire and respect his commitment to the improvement of education in America.

**CENTRAL NEW JERSEY HONORS
THE MEMORY OF JEREMIAH F.
REGAN**

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of one of central New Jersey's most distinguished citizens, Jeremiah F. Regan. Tonight the city of Oceanport will be officially dedicating the Jeremiah F. Regan Library/Media Center, a fitting tribute to a man who put such great effort into improving education in New Jersey.

Jeremiah Regan was born in Skibbereen, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1932. He served in the Army during World War II, and became a United States citizen while serving in Germany. After leaving the Army, he worked for Western Electric, and then came to work at the Electronics Command at Ft. Monmouth in Eatontown, NJ. While at Ft. Monmouth, Jerry Regan earned many honors, including, in 1984, the Department of the Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award—the highest award the Army gives to civilians.

Jerry served on the school board in Oceanport for 30 years, and served as president from 1976 to 1984. From 1988 to 1990 he served as president of the New Jersey School Boards Association. While with the NJSBA, Jerry worked tirelessly for students in New Jersey, putting special efforts into advocating for early childhood education programs. In 1998, Jerry received the Milestone Award from the NJSBA in recognition of his 30 years of service to the children and families in his community.

Jerry also served on the Save Our Fort Committee with me and Representative FRANK PALLONE, working tirelessly to see that Ft. Monmouth remains an active and integral part of the community. Jerry continued to work for his community until his unfortunate passing in 1999. I was proud to call him a friend and still count his wonderfully warm wife of 44 years, Pinky, as a good friend.

Mr. Speaker, one word has constantly reappeared in this statement, and that word is served. Jeremiah F. Regan truly lived a life of service, and represents the best that central New Jersey has to offer. He was an immigrant, like so many of my constituents today, and like them, he gave himself wholeheartedly to making New Jersey, and America, a better place. I hope the House will join me in recognizing Jerry's accomplishments, and in commending Oceanport for creating this lasting memorial to one of its great citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, during the following rollcall votes, I was out in my district on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 96—"yes"; rollcall No. 97—"yes."

**A FOND FAREWELL TO DEPUTY
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DR.
JOHN HAMRE**

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, recently, I was saddened to hear that the Department of Defense is losing one of its greatest minds and greatest public servants. Dr. John Hamre is leaving his post as Deputy Secretary of Defense to move into the private sector. Dr. Hamre has had a long and distinguished career of public service in the defense community.

In his two and a half year tenure as Deputy Secretary of Defense he initiated improved business practices, improved defenses against cyberterrorism, and improved defense against biological and chemical warfare. Clearly, our national security has been strengthened by his diligence in these and other areas.

Before his position as Deputy Secretary of Defense he served as Comptroller of the Department of Defense. He had moved to the Department of Defense from the Senate Armed Services Committee where he served as a professional staff member.

Dr. Hamre is not only an extraordinary civil servant, but a good man and good friend. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) will be well served with the addition of Dr. Hamre. I would like to thank Dr. Hamre for his years of service to the American people, and wish him all the best with his future endeavors with the CSIS.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS J. VADINI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis J. Vadini, Secretary Treasurer and Principal Officer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 52 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Dennis Vadini was born and raised in Parma, Ohio. He graduated from Parma High School and then served in the United States Navy from 1968–72. After returning to Cleveland, Dennis immersed himself in labor studies, first at Cuyahoga Community College and then at Cleveland State University. He also earned several certificates in labor law, labor negotiations, and other labor-related subjects from Ohio State University's Continuing Education program.

Dennis Vadini has enjoyed a long and successful Union career. He worked his way up the ladder in the Teamsters Local 52, beginning as chief steward with the Union, and then becoming Trustee in 1980. He also served as Vice-President and President of the Local 52 before reaching his current position as Secretary Treasurer and Principal Officer. In addition, Dennis is Co-chairman of Ohio Bakery Division of the Ohio Conference of Teamsters, and serves on the Medical Mutual Health Care Advisory Council. Because of his commitment to organized labor and his concern for improving the lives of his fellow human beings, Dennis is now being honored by the Cleveland State of Israel Bonds.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Dennis Vadini, Secretary Treasurer and Principal Officer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 52.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOSEPH G.
CIRILLO**

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I pay my respects and honor Joseph G. Cirillo, a long-time friend and community leader in Haverford Township, PA, who passed away on March 22 at the age of 60.

Joe Cirillo's life was centered around service to others—he was a devoted family man, a man of deep faith and a generous and hard-working community leader. After serving in the Navy, Joe enrolled at Widener University and later received a master's degree in counseling and human relations from Villanova University. His public service spans almost thirty years working on all the many important areas facing the township—parks and recreation and zoning, to name a few. At the time of his death he was Haverford Township Commissioner and Chairman of the Township's Republican Party organization. Although his political leadership gave him high profile as a Republican, his community involvement extended beyond just politics. His work as personnel director at Fair Acres, Delaware County's geriatric center, placed him in an environment where his concern, compassion and devotion to duty were in evidence on a daily basis.

Joe and his childhood sweetheart, Cathy Dupal, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Joseph; daughters Theresa McLean, Susan Ferry and Cathy Koval; five grandchildren; and a brother, Vincent, of Philadelphia. My deep sympathy goes out to Joe's wife, Cathy, to their children, grandchildren and to his brother, Vincent.

The entire community knows Joe as a man who could be counted on in every situation. If ever a man lived his faith, it was Joe Cirillo. Joe was an extraordinary man who went above and beyond what was needed because of his sincere desire to help his fellow man. We will all miss Joe, but we count as blessing all the many wonderful memories of his life and work. Mr. Speaker, our region has lost a great leader, and I have lost a good friend.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 23, 2000]

JOSEPH G. CIRILLO, A GOP LEADER

(By William Lamb)

Joseph G. Cirillo, 60, a Haverford Township commissioner and chairman of the township's Republican Party organization, died yesterday of an apparent heart attack at Delaware County's Fair Acres Geriatric Center, where he was director of personnel.

Mr. Cirillo had represented Haverford's Third Ward on the township's Board of Commissioners since 1995, when he was appointed to fill the seat vacated by the death of Stephen Campetti. In 1997, he was appointed to the Haverford Authority, a body charged with recommending uses for the 239-acre site of the former Haverford State Hospital.

Mr. Cirillo's political allies and foes described him as a diligent worker who devoted much of his free time to his party and community.

A native of West Philadelphia, Mr. Cirillo graduated from St. Thomas More High School in 1957, an achievement he noted proudly with a personalized license plate: "STM 1957."

After serving in the Navy, Mr. Cirillo took a job with Acme Markets at the supermarket chain's West Philadelphia warehouse at 59th Street and Upland Way. He enrolled at Widener University after chronic back problems forced him to leave the job, and later received a master's degree in counseling and human relations from Villanova University.

In 1959, he married Cathy Dupal, whom he had known since childhood. The couple moved to Haverford in 1966.

Mr. Cirillo immersed himself in his community, and in the Republican organization that ran it. He served on the township's parks and recreation board in the early 1970s. He was appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board in 1980 and was elected chairman in 1993.

By the mid-1980s, Mr. Cirillo was first vice president of the township Republican committee, eventually taking control of the local party organization in 1994 after the resignation of Hugh A. Donaghue.

Until his ally Fred Moran failed to win reappointment as commissioners chairman in January, Mr. Cirillo was Haverford's undisputed GOP boss. Despite rumors of an effort to depose him as party chair, Mr. Cirillo had said this week that he planned to seek reelection to the post next month.

He began working for Delaware County in 1982 as a human resources information and referral specialist. In 1987, he was appointed personnel director at Fair Acres, the county's geriatric center in Lima, a position he held until his death.

"I don't know anyone that can't say that Joe was the most loyal and hard-working Republican in this township," said Joan Genthert-Giangiulio, a former Haverford commissioner who befriended the Cirillos in 1969. "He was one of the guys that did all of the work—he didn't delegate much—and I think it's going to be a big loss."

Mr. Cirillo's political opponents also acknowledged his contributions yesterday.

"I was impressed that his community involvement extended beyond just politics," said State Rep. Gregory S. Vitali (D., Delaware), acknowledging Cirillo's involvement at St. Denis Church.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Joseph; daughters Theresa McLean, Susan Ferry and Cathy Koval; five grandchildren; and a brother, Vincent, of Philadelphia.

WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to draw your attention to the critical need for Congressional commitment to support research for women's health research. As a survivor of ovarian cancer myself, and on behalf of the millions of women who suffer debilitating diseases, the advancement of women's health must be a national priority.

Historically, women's diseases have sat on the "backburner" of research agendas. But one hundred years ago when many women did not live through menopause, women were not represented in elected offices as they are now. Today, women are not only 12% of this House, but also 50% of the American workforce and the primary caregivers in our homes. Our daily health greatly affects the productivity of America and the quality of life for our children and families. We need to continue to fight aggressively to make women's health research a national priority.

Too many times, chronic health conditions affecting women have been labeled and dismissed as "psychosomatic." Yet, we know through medical research that these "women's conditions" are real diseases with real biological causes. Chronic conditions are often associated with significant medical costs as patients and providers seek to identify the root of the problem, rule out other conditions, and find a satisfactory approach to managing and treating the illness.

The Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research recently sponsored a briefing that I was pleased to support, "Reaching Gender Equity in the 21st Century: A Renewed Focus on Women's Health." The briefing highlighted the need for increased research into chronic conditions that affect women and their productivity.

The briefing featured two chronic conditions that disproportionately affect women during their prime working years, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and migraine headaches. IBS is a common intestinal disorder characterized by recurring abdominal pain and abnormal bowel functions. IBS affects as many as 50 million Americans, predominately women, and is a leading cause of absenteeism at work.

Many successes have been achieved in medical research of women's health, for which I am personally grateful. All of us have benefited from the advances in medical research and the resulting technology. But it has been only in the last 10 years that women have been included in clinical trials. We have a long road ahead of us and many challenges to meet. We can not rest on the laurels of our past. Instead, we must dedicate ourselves to advancing our national women's health research agenda. I intend to do just that.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant support of the Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Bill, which provides over \$9 billion in emergency funds for this year. This bill provides \$5 billion for ongoing operations in Kosovo, \$2.2 billion for natural disaster assistance, \$2 billion additional funds for the Defense Department, and \$1.7 billion in assistance to Colombia, Peru, and to fight narcotics traffickers.

While I support the Supplemental Appropriations bill, I have strong reservations about using this legislation as a vehicle to circumvent the regular appropriations process. Many initiatives and decisions contained in this bill should be part of the regular FY 2001 appropriation process rather than trying to slip under the past and current year spending levels. This bill reduces the non-Social Security budget surplus for this year by about 35%. Such efforts don't speak well for the often-stated Congressional pledges to pay down the debt. Too often under this GOP leadership, the term "emergency" is misunderstood and misused. This Emergency Supplemental request should not be an opportunity to evade spending caps for non-emergency items.

I supported the increases of the Lewis-Spence amendment, which would provide \$4 billion in additional emergency funds, mostly targeted at maintaining critical need areas under the Department of Defense. While it would be preferable to consider this funding during the regular budget process, I believe the military has urgent needs in the areas specified by the amendment. Under the amendment, an additional \$4 billion will be provided to fund the operations and training of currently deployed forces, as well as provide much-needed increases for the military health care program, personnel recruiting and retention, and improvements to military housing. However, this amendment underscores the fallacy of the Majority's FY 2001 Budget Resolution adopted last week.

The Supplemental Appropriations bill does include important funding for fighting the drug war in Colombia and providing the military with adequate funding levels to pay for rising fuel costs; health care and repairing damages to military facilities caused by recent hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters is understandable. These are truly unforeseen costs.

I decided to support the Emergency Supplemental because the assistance package for Colombia is a vital priority and is clearly in our nation's fundamental interest. Colombia is the source of more than 80 percent of the cocaine and much of the heroin that enters the United States. In fact, Colombia produces 60 percent of the world's cocaine crop, an astonishing 90 percent of which makes its way to the U.S. The cost of illegal drugs to the U.S. is \$110

billion a year, and the U.S. Drug Czar, Barry McCaffrey has reported that illegal drugs account for 114,000 American deaths a year. Assisting Colombia is clearly in the interest of our nation and especially in the interest of our nation's youth.

In 1999, Colombia's President Pastrana unveiled a proposal, known as Plan Colombia, to address the country's drug production and civil conflict. The Government of Colombia has estimated that \$7.8 billion will be needed over the next three years to reverse the country's role as the hemispheric center for drugs, rebuild its economy and bolster its democratic institutions.

But as we offer assistance to Colombia, it is important that we include tangible means for measuring the actions of the government-supported forces. We must ensure that the funds we provide to Colombia are utilized in a manner consistent with our national interest. That is why I supported the amendment offered by my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY that would have delayed funding for military hardware and training contained in the Colombia assistance package until July 15, 2000. The amendment would have provided for immediate funding of all drug interdiction efforts under the Administration's plan, but with withheld military aid until sufficient review by Congress. The delay would have provided the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on International Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence time to hold hearings about the conflict in Colombia and the need for this kind of hardware and training before the funds are appropriated.

I believe the funding contained in the aid package should not serve as a blank-check for the Colombian military to engage in actions that may violate human rights, including the killing of innocent civilians. It is important to remember that since 1987, it has been reported that more than 35,000 noncombatant civilians have been murdered or made to disappear by the Colombian security forces and their paramilitary allies. While President Pastrana has made important strides in restoring the rule of law and improving the human rights record of the military, the U.S. should act very carefully before appropriating funds to any army with such a decidedly bloody record.

I also believe this legislation should have included drug prevention measures to reduce the demand for illegal drugs in the United States. Such an effort must be part of a comprehensive U.S. anti-drug strategy. Indeed, I find it ironic that we're considering an emergency supplemental bill in the House of Representatives whose emergency status is in part due to the production of illegal drugs in Colombia, without one dollar in the bill being used for drug prevention in the U.S.

Illegal drugs are killing our kids at an alarming rate. In 1998, five million young people in this country required treatment for drug addiction, and nearly 600,000 required an emergency room visit. In the United States, there are 1.6 million drug-related arrests annually, and over half of our prison population committed drug-related crimes. Even more disturbing, while the average age for marijuana users is increasing, heroin abusers are getting younger. The cost of drug abuse to our society is estimated to be \$110 billion per year, but it is much higher if measured in countless lives lost and young dreams broken. This problem, Mr. Chairman, is staggering. As

such, I supported the motion to recommit the bill back to the Appropriations Committee with instructions that it be reported back to the full House with sufficient domestic drug prevention funding. While this effort failed, I hope the Administration and the Majority take important steps to address the demand side of the drug problem in this country. If we are to truly eradicate drugs from our streets, we must recognize that when there is a demand, there will always be a willing supplier.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that, should this bill progress, the leadership will pare back spending which is not truly emergency. Much of this bill can be considered under the regular appropriations process for FY 2001. We should be reticent to completely ignore spending caps for the current fiscal year as this bill does.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF NEAL TRAVIS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Neal Travis, one of New York's most celebrated newspaper columnists and writers, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Neal Travis' insightful analysis of the New York scene has educated and entertained those in the big apple for many, many years. His column in the New York Post, Neal Travis' New York, has covered all aspects of life and has attracted the attention of all segments of our society. His blend of wit, sarcasm, compassion and searing observations have inspired, motivated and always informed New Yorkers.

Born in New Zealand, Neal Travis emigrated to the United States in 1964 where he served as a foreign correspondent for Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. He then rose quickly up the ladder and secured his own column in the New York Post. Some 15 years after its inception, Neal Travis' New York is more popular than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in sending our warmest congratulations to Neal Travis on his 60th birthday. Life in New York will always be more significant and exciting because of his presence and his gift with the written word.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLYN POLISH AMERICAN HOME, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Polish American Home, Inc.

Established in 1935 when South Brooklyn was a growing community full of various ethnic backgrounds, the community felt a cultural center should be established. This center would serve, not only as a meeting place for the entire community, but as an educational

tool where people could visit and learn about their own heritage and the heritage of others. Thus, the Brooklyn Polish American Home was born. The Home's objective is to further not only Polish ideals, but the ideals of the entire community; in addition it serves as a civic, social, and recreational center.

With a goal of serving the community, and with generous donations from the entire area, a parcel of land was purchased on April 10, 1935. The Home serves not only as a meeting place, but as a builder of futures for young people. The Home managed to establish a Scholarship Trust Fund, awarding grants to high school graduating seniors entering college or any other approved higher education institution. The first grant was provided in 1971, and through 1999 a total of 81 individuals had received financial assistance, totaling over \$32,200.

The Home has not been without hardships, though. Throughout the years, numerous renovations have been done to the Home. In the late 1980's, two fires caused substantial amounts of damage and had to be renovated again. As a result of the generosity and involvement of the entire Brooklyn community, sufficient funding was acquired making these extensive repairs possible. The fact that the House was able to overcome these challenges is a testament to the character, will and stamina of the community's residents.

My fellow colleagues, I ask you to join in honoring the 65th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Polish American Home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Thursday, March 30, 2000, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 89-95. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 89 on Agreeing to the Kasich Amendment; Rollcall vote 90 on Agreeing to the Weldon Amendment; rollcall vote 91 on Agreeing to the Stearns Amendment; roll call vote 92 on Agreeing to the Paul Amendment; rollcall vote 93 on Agreeing to the Tancred Amendment; rollcall 94 on the Motion to Re-commit with Instructions; and rollcall vote 95 on Passage of H.R. 3908, Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for F.Y. 2000.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 90, 94 and 95. I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 89, 91, 92, and 93.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO DEACON WILLIE MARTIN, SR.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Deacon Willie Martin Sr., as he celebrates his 100th birthday on April 8, 2000 in Pineland, South Carolina. Congressman JAMES E. CLYBURN, my distinguished colleague from the 6th District of South Carolina, joins me in this tribute.

Although our celebrant lives in South Carolina, he travels to Miami-Dade County to visit his daughter, Mrs. Rosanna McCormick, who has been a resident of the city of Opa-Locka since 1950. Deacon Martin's grandson, Freddie L. Judson (Rosa), also resides in Miami-Dade County. Accordingly, our centenarian is an ex-officio resident of the 17th Congressional District of Florida, and I am extremely delighted indeed to have the privilege of representing the members of his immediate family.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Deacon Martin for the exemplary life with which God saw fit to bountifully bless him. The hallmark of excellence that defined his life for a century truly evokes a magnificent longevity of service to others in his role as a deacon of Bethel Baptist Church in Pineland, South Carolina. Amidst the ever-enduring presence of God, our celebrant has touched people from all walks of life through his genuine consecration to both their social, moral and spiritual enhancement.

His charitable spirit deeply nurtured his home into an oasis of love and encouragement for his family and countless others who sought refuge and comfort within its sanctuary for so many years. Deacon Martin's centennial birthday is indeed a joyous occasion when his loved ones and friends can truly take comfort in giving testimony to his exemplary dedication to his Christian stewardship.

Buttressed by his faith and his willingness to serve others under the aegis of his church, God has truly seen fit to bless him with the longevity of an extraordinary life. The happy occasion on April 8, 2000 will eloquently symbolize a historic testimony of the respect and admiration he has forged in his community and church-family.

I wish him warmest congratulations on this magnificent milestone of his life!

HONORING JAMES H. "JIM"
PATTERSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James H. Patterson—a devoted father, husband, friend and transportation industry leader—who passed away Saturday morning. Jim Patterson was 55 years old and resided in Blackhawk, CA, with his wife Theresa, son Jimmy and daughter Laura.

Before moving to California, Jim was born and raised in Portland, OR, and the proud son of Howard and Dorothy Patterson. Jim was with United Parcel Service since 1966 and was serving as vice president of Public Affairs for the Northwest Region upon his formal retirement in December. Jim had served in many positions during his tenure, including being one of the youngest regional managers in the history of the company.

Jim was truly a remarkable person. He had the respect of everyone that had the pleasure to work with him. Jim's keen insight and knowledge of the industry was unparalleled. His uncanny ability to assess complicated political situations and offer appropriate remedies was remarkable. And Jim's humor would dis-

arm the fiercest of opponents and ultimately result in their affection and respect.

Jim's devotion to his friends and family was well known. Jim loved talking to people and getting to know people. In addition, he loved collecting cars and most of all—spending time with his two kids.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to all of Jim's family and especially to Theresa, Jimmy and Laura.

IN HONOR OF SAINT EDWARD
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Year 2000 state champion Saint Edward High School wrestling team. Their four-year hold on Ohio high school wrestling's top honor shows no sign of weakening.

The Saint Edwards High School wrestling team, year in and year out, finds a way to keep their edge. This past month, the team won its fourth straight state championship, winning in resounding fashion. The Eagles' final tally of 186.5 points was nearly 100 points greater than the second place finishers. Five individual state champions set the tone for the Eagles' overwhelming dominance. Seniors Mason Lenhard and Mark Jayne each won their third titles. Jayne and senior Ryan Bertin both finished undefeated. Freshman Ryan Lang and senior Zak Schweda round out the Eagles' roster of title winners.

The 2000 Eagles squad fulfilled with ease the sort of expectations that any sporting dynasty raises. This year's state championship was the school's sixteenth all-time, a new state record. St. Edward's point total for the 2000 state tournament was the third highest in Ohio history. The Eagles' total of five individual state champions was one short of the all-time state record. The journey to Columbus was a difficult one: the Eagles grappled through what was widely recognized as the toughest schedule in school history. Taking on the best teams from across the nation, the Eagles were undefeated, finishing 14 and 0.

The 2000 Saint Edward wrestling team was, in a way, all about the journey. As Coach Gregg Urbas commented, "What we have is a room full of the hardest working kids you'll ever see, and they are very coachable. They all love this sport. Their work ethic is contagious. Those qualities will take you a long way in this sport. All of our 16 state championship teams were a little different. This team is loaded with wrestlers who kept improving week by week."

Saint Edward's dominance doesn't end at the state level. Two Eagles recently played pivotal roles in Ohio's state team's winning the national championship. Mason Lenhard and Ryan Bertin both won national titles in setting the pace for a "buckeye smackdown" at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

My fellow Members of Congress, join me in congratulating the 2000 state champion Saint Edward wrestling team. The Eagle grapplers do honor to my district, to my state, to their

school, and to their sport. Their recent success at both the state and national levels is a deserved reward for many days' hard work done well and done right.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING WAYNESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ERWIN MORRISS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career is nearing an end. Mr. Erwin Morriss, of Waynesville, Missouri, is retiring after 39 years in the education profession.

Mr. Morriss began his career in 1961 as a biology teacher and athletic coach at Jefferson City High School. In 1966, he became a teacher, coach and athletic director for Maryville schools. After that, he started his 31 years of service to the Waynesville School District as the Wood Junior High School Assistant Principal. Mr. Morriss moved to Waynesville High School in 1970 to be the Assistant Principal, and then served as the Principal for four years. He assumed the duties of Waynesville R-VI School District Assistant Superintendent in 1976 and was named Superintendent in 1991.

Mr. Morriss has earned numerous awards during his career. Most recently, he was a recipient of "The Eddy Award" presented by Governor Mel Carnahan for the school district's Governor's Choice Award. In 1997, he was a Pearce Award Nominee for the "Outstanding Missouri School Administrator," South-Central District of the Missouri Association of School Administrators. Also in 1997, Mr. Morriss received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service for his meritorious service to the Fort Leonard Wood community and the education of military children. The Missouri State Teachers Association recognized him as Missouri's Administrator of the Year in 1990 and the Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce named him as Citizen of the Year in 1987.

An active participant in his community, Mr. Morriss belongs to many civic and professional organizations. He is a member and former chairman of the Waynesville City Planning Commission, a member and past president of the Waynesville-St. Roberts Lions Club, as well as a member of the Waynesville-Fort Leonard Wood Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association, the United Methodist Church of Waynesville, Masonic Lodge No. 375, and the Association of the United States Army. Mr. Morriss also belongs to the American Association of School Administrators, the Missouri State Teachers Association, the Waynesville Community Teachers Association and the Phi Delta Kappa Education Honor Fraternity.

As he prepares to spend more time with his wife, Susan, his son, Michael, and his daughter, Lindy, I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to my friend Erwin Morriss and in wishing him the best in the days ahead.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 292, Congratulating Taiwan on Its Recent Elections.

The government of Taiwan is a representative democracy. On March 18, 2000, the citizens of the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan exercised their right to vote and elected Mr. Chen Shui-bian as their new President and Ms. Annette Hsui-Lien Lu as the new Vice-President. The popular vote election was held in accordance with the ROC's Constitution and the people of Taiwan turned out in record numbers to vote. Over 82 percent of Taiwan's 15 million citizens voted, making it one of the highest turnouts ever.

Despite rhetoric and brinkmanship from the mainland, the people of Taiwan have clearly expressed their determination to build a free and democratic society. The U.S. should continue our strong support for Taiwan's security.

Taiwan is and continues to be a strong U.S. ally. The people of Taiwan have voted their conscience. Given the events that have happened over the past several years, it is in America's best interest to promote peace in the Taiwan Straits.

The people of Taiwan should be congratulated for the democratic outcome of its presidential election. In addition, I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating the people of Taiwan for their continuing efforts to develop and sustain a free, democratic society that not only respects human rights but embraces free markets as well.

This election again demonstrates that Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and I look forward to working with the new government of President-elect Chen Shui-bian on issues of mutual concern.

TRIBUTE TO MACON-BIBB COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF JIMMY HINSON

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize a great American and someone who has continuously served as Chief of the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department into the past 24 years, Jimmy Earl Hinson.

Chief Hinson began fighting fires in 1961, and, as Chief, he was instrumental in turning the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department into a Class One department. His leadership, integrity, and compassion are well known, and his retirement is a deep loss to our community.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Chief Hinson for his commitment and hard work, for putting his life on the line to protect and serve the people of Macon and Bibb

County, and for being an exemplary model of strength and honor.

It is people like Chief Hinson who keep our families and neighborhoods safe, who work hard each and every day for our protection, and who teach us about the importance of fire safety to whom we owe our sincerest appreciation. I thank Chief Hinson and wish him all the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday, April 3, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 96 and 97. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 96 and "present" on rollcall vote 97.

CONGRATULATING LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S MENS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lamar University's Mens Basketball team for their success this season and their return to the NCAA Tournament. Their return to March Madness took 17 years, but they made alumni like myself and fans of the basketball program proud.

This was Lamar's fifth trip to the tournament, and the first since the 1983 season. Lamar finished the season with a 15-16 record, and headed down the road to tournament competition with a victory at the CenturyTel Southland Basketball Classic. In their first game in the Classic, the No. 7 seeded Cardinals triumphed over the No. 2 seed Louisiana-Monroe with a 66-62 win. They then went on to win games against Southwest Texas and Northwestern State to capture the tournament.

Lamar had the unfortunate luck to draw the No. 1 team in the country, the Duke Blue Devils, as their first round opponent in the Big Dance. However, the underdogs from Texas put up a fight, and gave Duke a run for their money. Mike Dean, the first year Lamar coach, and the fans who made the trip could only be pleased with the grit and determination with which the team played.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the basketball team from my Alma Mater made me proud, and it is truly an honor to recognize them today. They have shown amazing effort and are an example of just how far dedication and hard work can get you. I offer my congratulations on an outstanding season, and I look forward to watching them succeed again next March.

HOMILY SUPPORTING CLEVELAND AREA HOSPITALS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in Cleveland, Ohio we are battling to keep two area hospitals open. I insert for printing in the RECORD the following homily given by Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Skrha at Our Lady of Lourdes in Cleveland, Ohio on Sunday, March 12, 2000. This homily expresses the need for accessible healthcare for all citizens regardless of economic status, race, or religion.

Good morning:

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a time in the Christian church during which it is suggested that we put aside activities that would distract us and to focus in on who Jesus was and is, for us, now.

Who was He?

What did He do?

What did He say?

How did He act?

To whom did He address himself?

How much suffering did this cause him?

Being rejected by the establishment, he suffered and suffered death. As we enter into his suffering, may we enter his victory and resurrection at Easter.

I wish to reflect the last sentence from today's Gospel: "the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel"—believe in the Gospel. What is the Gospel? It is the good news that Jesus shared with his disciples and followers 2000 years ago. Did it have meaning for two sisters 116 years ago? Does it have meaning for us now? I believe it did, and still does. These words give us strength and meaning in this present age.

On July 17, 1884 two Franciscan Sisters arrived in Cleveland from Lafayette, Indiana with the clothes on their backs and two dollars between them. After arriving at the train station, they were met by a Franciscan Priest and escorted to a small house at the corner of Broadway and McBride, formerly occupied by the Poor Clare Sisters. In this building they were to establish St. Alexis Hospital. The area was rather poor with the majority of the residents being recently arrived immigrants from Central Europe.

To save money on soap, the Sisters mixed sand with the soapy waters when washing the floors.

Once they walked 7 miles to receive a monetary donation of \$1.00 and they walked back in order to keep the one dollar bill intact.

At the celebration commemorating 25 years in 1909, the main speaker was Dr. George Crile who later on started up the Cleveland Clinic. He described the charity work done at St. Alexis Hospital. In its first year, 25 patients were cared for, all were charity cases. Up to 1909, 20,400 patients had been treated and of those, 15,021 were charity cases and only 1,003 had paid full rates. All creeds and nationalities were admitted on an equal basis. In 1902, of the 2,300 patients treated, Catholics accounted for less than one-fourth. The history of this hospital is rooted in charity care given to people of all races and all religious backgrounds.

In 1906, Dr. Crile performed the first human to human blood transfusion in the world. One of the Miller brothers who lived locally was dying because of a great loss of blood. With crude instruments, Dr. Crile did a direct transfusion from one brother to the other and a life was saved. It is ironic that the Cleveland Clinic which was founded by Dr. Crile wants to terminate the life blood of Saint Michael Hospital.

The Gospel is about what Jesus said and did. He spent his time with the poor, ministering to their needs. Saint Michael Hospital has a history of 116 years healing the sick, primarily the poor and rejected.

Jesus restored sight to the blind. How many patients have had their sight restored with the many cataract operations. Jesus raised persons from the dead. How many times have patients been resuscitated from the dead when their heart stopped beating and have been brought back to life. Being close to the hospital is an important factor in these situations.

Jesus healed leprosy, an infection. How many times have patients had their severe infections treated at Saint Michael. Jesus reconciled many in healing their broken relationship with their God. How many times have patients of different faiths been reconciled with their God through the presence of a full-time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week Pastoral Care Department.

The Sisters have maintained the Catholic presence during these years. PHS committed itself in 1994 to maintain this same presence and in 1998 the Bishop of Cleveland proclaimed Saint Michael a Catholic hospital even though it was a for-profit hospital run by lay men.

Jesus ran into opposition from the Scribes and Pharisees because of his commitment to the poor, alienated and ill of varied cultures. This caused Him much suffering. The Pharisees wore fancy robes, wanted the best seats at banquets and always wanted to be above the rest of the people. We have a wealthy hospital who calls itself world class, who wishes to express its power to control healthcare in Cleveland, causing us much suffering because it wishes to eliminate us

and leave this community without a hospital.

Lent did not begin for this community on Ash Wednesday. It began last Monday, March 6, 2000 when it was announced that a wealthy hospital was buying and closing us down. Those who attended the rally at Our Lady of Lourdes last Monday, those continuing their efforts to resist closure, namely political leaders, the clergy who support the people with their presence—all of these are living out the Gospel, living out the words and deeds of Jesus, are suffering with Jesus as he suffered.

I wish to close by reading a passage from the 25th chapter from the Gospel of Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted and healed me, in prison and you came to visit me." Then they will ask him, "Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink?" "When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness?" "When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?" He will answer: "I assure you, as often as you did it for my least sisters or brothers, you did it for me."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 96 and rollcall No. 97, I was unavoidably

away on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 2000, I was unable to be in Washington and, consequently, missed two votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 96 and "aye" on rollcall No. 97.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Numbers 96 and 97, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both measures.